THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 23rd November 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am sorry to have been absent these four days. You seem to have had very important discussion in my absence and I am very glad that the whole thing went off well and the Deputy President conducted the proceedings very well. I must thank the Deputy President for his invaluable help. I am very glad to have come back to my legitimate work."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" We are glad to state that the Deputy President had conducted himself very well."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" When the Opposition feel so glad, I am only pleased at it."

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Endowments in respect of secondary schools.

* 112-A *Q.*—DR. V. K. JOHN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that endowments have been asked for in respect of secondary schools in the Province; and

(*b*) whether any exemptions have been given to any Hindu institutions as mentioned by the Catholic Bishops in their statement?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) On 21st July 1948 the Director of Public Instruction made a reference to Government upon the necessity for executing a separate conveyance to create endowments for institutions run by charitable bodies consequent on a representation received by him from the S.K.P.D. Charities. The S.K.P.D. Managing Committee are running an elementary school and two secondary schools, one for boys and the other for girls. That management, on the information given to them to create endowments for those schools, represented to the Director that, in view of the provisions in the scheme for the administration of the S.K.P.D. Trust, sanctioned by the High Court and in view of the fact that practically both the managements, that which supplies funds and the management which maintains the schools, are one and the same body, and that endowments, if any, now made separately for the schools will also come into the hands of the same management, whether the condition regarding the legal conveyance

[23rd November 1948

for the creation of an endowment could not be waived. The Director referred this to the Government for a decision. In that communication, he added that these are registered public trusts like the Ramakrishna Mission and the Pachaiyappas Trust. What the Director referred to was not for an exemption from endowments for any of the schools conducted by these trusts, but for directions over a technical and legal matter whether when the same trust was managing schools, whether endowments for each of them must be executed separately. While this matter was pending before the Government, the Director issued an interim proceeding stating that schools managed by charitable bodies under proper trusts like the Pachaiyappas Trust and the Ramakrishna Mission, may be left out for the time being. The words 'for the time being' in the proceedings may be noted. The Government did not approve these proposals.

"When this matter was pending, Government issued orders on the representation of the Catholic Bishops giving certain concessions to them for the provision of these endowments in G.O. No. 2501, Education, dated 1st October 1948. The Director of Public Instruction on receiving these orders issued two proceedings on 19th October 1948, one communicating the decision of Government on the representation of the Catholic Bishops with regard to endowments and the other applying these very same provisions to the other aided managements. The Bishops in their statement said, 'We fail to understand that while exemption has been accorded to schools managed by Hindu organizations like the Pachaiyappas Trust and the Ramakrishna Mission, why no such endowments should not be granted to our schools.' The presumption under the statement is not correct.

"It has been represented that I have been discourteous in the use of my words. I would like to make it clear that the Government do not want to be discourteous to any community or to any person. If it is felt that in the circumstances of the case, I have used any words or expressions stronger than may be necessary, I regret to have used them and regret that there should have been occasion for the use of these words."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it correct that all aided managements are treated impartially whether Hindu, Muslim or Christian ? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" Absolutely so."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if the proceedings referred to by the Hon. Minister was issued by the Director of Public Instruction ? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" These are not for any individual managements. These are for the instructions of the District Educational Officers."

23rd November 1948]

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Should not these District Educational Officers have communicated to the managements in view of the fact there was a original proceeding in which endowments were asked? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " In certain matters, the District Educational Officers communicated the proceedings to the managements. Certain proceedings are for instructions to the District Educational Officers and these may not be communicated to the managements."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the corrections made in regard to endowments and since the administration of the endowments rest with the management . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think that is enough."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know Sir, whether any Government Order has been passed cancelling the instructions contained in the proceedings passed by the Director of Public Instruction? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " I may make it clear that never was any exemption given so that there was no necessity for Government's saying that these exemptions given need not be given. The only reply was or the only clarification needed was to the question whether anything was done. The answer was 'No.' Therefore there was no necessity to issue a Government Order."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I was intending to request you, Sir, to allow me to raise a debate under rule 14. But having heard the Hon. Minister and his expression of regret for words which he used, which have caused great concern and anxiety in certain quarters and also widespread resentment I suggest that the whole matter should now be considered closed. The Hon. Minister said it is closed as far as he is concerned and expressed regret for the strong words he used and it is my hope that the Bishops and all others will treat the matter as closed and there will be no more public agitation on this matter and any further meetings. I suggest that the regret should be accepted in the spirit in which it was expressed."

Joint session of both the Houses of Legislature.

* 113 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the cost to the Government is for having convened a joint session of both the Houses of the Legislature; and

(*b*) what was the need or the urgency for holding a joint session of both the Houses of the Legislature?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) Rupees two thousand three hundred and forty-five.